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Govt committed to enhancing literacy in country: Kaira

ISLAMABAD - The Government is all out to enhance literacy in the country in spite of all odds and lack of resources, said Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting. He was addressing the unveiling ceremony of the logos selected for the National Year of Literacy 2010-11 here Thursday at the National Art Gallery.

The logo competition was arranged by the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD).

The Information Minister said that the Government has provided sufficient funds to the educational institutions and more would be provided to the provinces to meet the needs of the educational institutions.

"Our Government is firmly committed to "Education for All", and we have taken several steps in this regard though combating illiteracy is a big challenge and no previous government could handle it but we do not blame any government for their shortcomings believing that they would have taken all the necessary steps", he added.

"Our critics should admire at least our good deeds", he asked the opposition leaders while referring to the achievements of the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) in the field of education and the capacity building initiatives for the indi-

viduals and the institutions.

Kaira went on praising all the artworks exhibited on the occasion saying that a piece of art could convey the bigger messages. The top three logos are more meaningful and certainly would serve the purpose of communicating the message of literacy for all.

Speaking on the occasion, Nafeesa Shah, the chairman of the National Commission for Human Development, said that the Commission got engaged in marking the fiscal year 2010-11 as the National Year for Literacy as announced by the Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani.

About 100 designers have submitted their entries in the competition. Among them, the Multan-based Sajjad Hussain won the first prize of Rs100,000 whereas Islamabad-based Muhammad Ali and Attiq Rehman won the second and third prizes respectively.

The jury included renowned artist Jamal Shah, creative head of an advertising agency Amal Masood, Sara Ahmed of the USEFP, and Musarrat Nahid Imam from the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

Earlier, the Director General NCHD Zulfiqar Ahmed, Jamal Shah and the winners of the competition also spoke on the occasion.

-MUNIR AHMED